



# Virginia Green Events



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## Virginia Commonwealth University Energy and Sustainability Conference Richmond, VA



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**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations, and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

## Virginia Commonwealth University Energy and Sustainability Conference

At 700,000 gross square feet of space, the Greater Richmond Convention Center (GRCC) is the largest meeting and exhibition facility in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The (GRCC) is a Certified Virginia Green Convention Center that is dedicated to being environmentally responsible and aims to exemplify the Virginia Green program.

The VCU Energy and Sustainability Conference Planning Committee has made a commitment to plan and carry out the conference in a manner that is consistent with the Virginia Green campaign.

The Convention Center has the following sustainable actions in place: 1) Ionator - water based cleaning system 2) Water filtration in all water fountains 3) Lighting - LED lighting or compact fluorescents used 4) HVAC - Control system monitors efficiency of use 5) All lights in areas of the building not in use are turned off. 6) Aramark purchases products from local producers and suppliers whenever possible.

For more 'green' specific information : <http://www.vsbu.org/vcu-esc2013/greenfeatures.shtml>

### Virginia Green Activities

#### This facility pledges that they:

##### Recycle.

- Have in place clearly marked recycling locations and/or containers. Please check the items that visitors to your facility are able to recycle: (*minimum of 2 required*)

- Glass bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic bottles
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Composting of food & other compostable items

### **Minimize the use of disposable food service products.**

- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups **OR**
- Use disposable food service items that are made from bio-based, renewable materials
- Use disposable food service items that are made with recycled content
- Use disposable food service items that are recyclable in your area

### **Printed Materials.**

- Use electronic registration, correspondence, and forms instead of paper forms
- Use soy-based inks
- Purchase/use paper products with 30% or higher recycled-content

### **Waste Reduction.**

- Track overall solid waste costs (*required for Virginia Green*)
- Chose a **location/venue** that shares a similar commitment to reducing its environmental impacts and include green specifics in contracting. Please provide the "green details" on the venue:
- Donate excess food from events
- Arrange for the composting of food waste and other compostables
- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles
- Avoid box lunches and service trays/platters of food instead
- Purchase recycled-content paper towels and toilet paper
- Encourage the use of mass-transit and/or carpooling to the event
- Provide for recycling of boxes and other set-up wastes
- Reuse or donate shipping and packing supplies (peanuts, bubble wrap, etc.)
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment

### **Green Signage.**

- Have a link on our website to the Virginia Green Events webpage
- Have a green event section on our events webpage highlighting all of our green activities
- Have signs at the event registration which list all of our green activities
- Use the Virginia Green logo on signs and on recycling containers
- Have quantified our greening efforts and will post estimates of the reduced environmental impacts (you could use some sort of pollution calculator, such as [www.cleanerandgreener.org/resources/pollutioncalculator.l](http://www.cleanerandgreener.org/resources/pollutioncalculator.l)  
[www.cleanerandgreener.org/resources/pollutioncalculator.htm](http://www.cleanerandgreener.org/resources/pollutioncalculator.htm))



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For more information on **Virginia Commonwealth University Energy and Sustainability Conference**, see [www.convention-connections.com](http://www.convention-connections.com) or contact Nancy Crowe at [NCrowe@convention-Connections.com](mailto:NCrowe@convention-Connections.com) or 239-776-7100.

For more information on the Virginia Green program, see [www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx](http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx).



**Virginia Green** is a partnership supported by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

